

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 5 as follows:

With a shape memory polymer, the distal tip 14, including polymer jacket 50, core wire 20, and/or radiopaque coil 40, may be deformed into the desired shape. By way of example, not limitation, the distal tip portion 14 may be deformed about a cylindrical object 90 to impart a J-tip shape as shown in Figure 4, or a bent-L shape as shown in Figure 5. Although only basic shapes are shown, it is contemplated that a wide variety of simple and complex shapes may be achieved with the present invention. While the desired shape is maintained, the polymer jacket 50 may be subjected to heat at a temperature at or above the glass transition temperature (or near the melt temperature) of the shape memory polymer, and subsequently cooled to a temperature below the glass transition temperature. Once cooled, the distal tip 14 may be released from the constrained shape. The glass transition temperature is preferably greater than the temperature of the environment where guidewire 10 will be used (i.e., the internal body temperature of a patient), so as to sustain the desired shape while guidewire 10 is used (e.g., navigated through a vessel lumen of a patient). In other words, the temperature of the environment where guidewire 10 will be used is lower than the glass transition temperature that will allow polymer jacket 50 to change shape.